

**REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

**BILL FOR THE  
FIREARMS (AMENDMENT)  
ACT NO.      OF 2017**

**Explanatory Note**

This Bill amends the Firearms Act [CAP 198] primarily to give effect to Vanuatu's FATF Action Plan to meet FATF Recommendations\*. Amendments have been made to the definitions of 'firearms', and "ammunition" and new definitions for the terms 'components' and 'ammunition' have been inserted into the Firearms Act. These amendments are necessary to bring these definitions into line with international standards. The Penal Code (Amendment) Bill of 2017 further creates the offence of illicit firearms trafficking (see clause 146A of that Bill) which relies on these new definitions.

\*The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an independent inter-governmental body that develops and promotes policies to protect the global financial system against money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The FATF Recommendations are recognised as the global anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) standard.

**Minister of Internal Affairs**



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**Arrangement of Sections**

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# REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

## **BILL FOR THE FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2017**

An Act to amend the Firearms Act [CAP 198].

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

### **1 Amendments**

The Firearms Act [CAP 198] is amended as set out in the Schedule.

### **2 Commencement**

This Act commences on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

## SCHEDULE

### AMENDMENTS OF FIREARMS ACT [CAP 198]

#### **1 Section 1 (definition of ammunition)**

Repeal the definition, substitute

““ammunition” means the complete round and includes cartridge cases, primers, propellant powder, bullets and projectiles used in firearms, and any prohibited ammunition, but does not include spears discharged from a firearm solely for the purpose of killing fish;”

#### **2 Section 1 (definition of firearm)**

Repeal the definition, substitute

““firearm” means any portable barrelled weapon that expels, is designed to expel or may be readily converted to expel a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, and includes any air weapon, any prohibited weapon and any component of a firearm, but does not include an antique firearm or any replica of an antique firearm;”

#### **3 Section 1**

Insert in their correct alphabetical positions

““antique firearm” means a firearm manufactured during or before the year 1899;

““component” of a firearm means any element or replacement element designed specifically for a firearm and essential to its operation, including a barrel, frame or receiver, slide or cylinder, bolt or breech block, and any device designed or adapted to diminish the sound caused by firing a firearm;”